

MASSACRE OF DR. MARCUS WHITMAN AND OTHERS.

LETTER

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

A report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, relative to the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman, in answer to resolution of House of Representatives, of April 3.

APRIL 29, 1884.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 28, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the House of Representatives, of the 3d instant, of which the following is a copy:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to make an examination and investigation into the massacre by Indians, of Dr. Marcus Whitman and others, in the Columbia River Valley, in Oregon, in 1847, and to report to this House the names, and ages and sexes of those massacred and also of all those who survived or escaped said massacre (at said times and places) and now living, with their present places of abode, and what property, kind—and value—was destroyed, and to report any and all facts and circumstances relating to said massacre, and to make such recommendations in the premises as the facts by him ascertained may seem to justify.

The matter having been referred to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, attention is respectfully invited to the inclosed copy of his report of the 26th instant, in which he refers to former report with accompany papers made upon a resolution of the Senate of February 2, 1871, calling for information pertaining to the early labors of missionaries in Oregon, which will be found in Senate Ex. Doc. No. 37, third session Forty-first Congress and says that "after a very thorough search of the records and files of this office, I am enabled to state that said Senate document embraces all the information of record in this office relating to the subject-matter of the resolution of the House."

Very respectfully,

M. L. JOSLYN,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 26, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by your reference of a resolution of the House of Representatives, which requests that an examination and report be made by the Department to the House respecting the massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and others "in the Columbia River Valley, in Oregon, in 1847, giving the names, ages, and sexes of those massacred, and also of all those who survived or escaped said massacre and are now living, with their present places of abode; and what property—kind and value—was destroyed; and to report any and all facts and circumstances relating to said massacre, and also to make such recommendation in the premises as the facts may require."

In reply I have to state that this matter was brought to the attention of the Department by a resolution of the Senate, dated February 2, 1871, requesting that all the information in possession of the Department pertaining to the labors of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions in Oregon, commencing in 1836, be transmitted to the Senate, and, in response to said resolution, a report was made by this Bureau, dated February 6, inclosing a large number of documents from persons connected with the Indian service in former years, and from others whose statements are perfectly reliable, in which they bear testimony to the high character and self-denying labors of Dr. Whitman and his associates among the Indians in the early settlement of Oregon, giving a full account of the massacre, the causes which led it, or its instigators, the names and number of the killed, and of those who survived or escaped, and other important facts pertaining to the history of those missionaries. That report and the accompanying papers may be found in Ex. Doc. No. 37, the third session of the Forty-first Congress, and, after a very thorough search of the records and files of this office, I am enabled to state that said Senate document embraces all the information of record in this office relating to the subject-matter of the resolution of the House, which resolution is herewith respectfully returned.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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